

NIFA in the News – Week of September 12, 2011

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In the News

The Complexities of Biofuels Logistics (Biodiesel Magazine 8/08). Hong, an industrial and electrical engineering professor at SCSU, will be joined by other economics professors at the university to conduct the three-year study, which will be funded by a \$449,921 grant awarded by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture. The goal of the research is linked to the larger intent of the James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center at SCSU, which is to establish practical and economical ways to reduce logistics costs of transporting fuels. Hong estimates that nearly 25 percent of the cost to make biofuel is related to transportation, which he says must be minimized. Yaunchang Xie, a member of Hong's team, says that biofuels "get a lot of subsidies" that ultimately help lower the cost of biofuels used today. [Link](#)

UNH outreach program to offer new anti-bullying curriculum in rural schools (The Republic 8/9). Three rural school districts will serve as laboratories this fall for an experiment by a University of New Hampshire outreach program to fight bullying and peer pressure in middle schools. The program is the brainchild of members of UNH's Cooperative Extension program, with input from the school's Browne Center, which developed outdoor adventure activities to emphasize teamwork and problem-solving skills, and the Department of Social Work. The curriculum has been helped by a federal grant of nearly \$133,000 aimed at improving rural health and safety. [Link](#)

Extension team gets NIFA grant (High Plains Journal 8/9). University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension has been awarded \$4.1 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a five-year project addressing climate change and animal agriculture issues. Five other land-grant universities are partnering in the project that will be facilitated through the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center. [Link](#)

Senate moves on Agriculture Spending Bill (Natural Resource Report 9/11). On Wednesday,

September 7, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its fiscal year (FY) 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill by voice vote. Funding for the Organic Transitions Research Program, Regional IPM Centers, and Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would also be maintained at the levels provided in FY 2011. The farm bill mandatory funding for the Organic Research and Education Initiative (OREI), Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) were left intact. [Link](#)

Apply for DRA Farm Beginnings Course (and Scholarships!) by September 30 (Madville Times 9/11). Dakota Rural Action is offering its third Farm Beginnings course starting November 5 in Sioux Falls. The program aims to help folks get into farming or transition their current farm operations to sustainable farming practices. Farm Beginnings is made possible by a two-year \$132,200 federal grant from Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Senate committee returns \$1.2 million for LSU AgCenter (Delta Farm Press 9/12). The Senate Committee on Appropriations passed its version of a bill for federal funding to agricultural programs on Sept. 7 that puts back \$1.2 million into the LSU AgCenter's budget that had been taken away in an earlier U.S. House version. The proposed federal reductions were to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which is an agency under the USDA that supplies funds for land-grant university programs in research and extension across the nation. The AgCenter's proposed cut was part of a \$200 million cut nationwide. "This funding under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture generates valuable research results and is critical to sustaining vibrant agricultural industries in Louisiana. These dollars grow jobs and support our communities across the state with investments in 4-H clubs, better farming practices, nutrition programs, wood recycling and timber management," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. [Link](#)

Senate panel approves FY12 ag appropriations bill (Western Farm Press 9/14). The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved the FY12 agricultural appropriations bill. The FY12 bill provides \$2.309 billion for the National Institute on Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Agricultural Research Service, as compared to \$2.348 billion in FY11. Specifically within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative is funded at \$266 million, the Hatch Act is funded at \$236 million, the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program is funded at \$33 million, and Smith-Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c) is funded at \$296 million. [Link](#)

Sen. Franken Receives Golden Triangle Award from National Farmers Union (Hometown Source 9/14). U. S. Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) on Tuesday night (Sept. 13) received the Golden Triangle Award from the National Farmers Union. Sen. Franken is an outspoken supporter of farmers and Agriculture in Minnesota. He led the effort to increase the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which funds critical agriculture research at the University of Minnesota and across the country. [Link](#)

For kids with ADHD, regular 'green time' is linked to milder symptoms (EurekAlert 9/15). A study of more than 400 children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder has found a link between the children's routine play settings and the severity of their symptoms, researchers report. The study was performed with Hatch Act funds, and with support from the USDA CSREES National Research Initiative with a recommendation from the National

Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. [Link](#)

Colby receives grant of \$960,000 (Salinas Journal 9/16). Colby Community College has received a federal grant of \$960,000 to develop a distance learning veterinary technology program. The grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture will fund development of distance learning courses and salaries for two veterinarians, two registered veterinary technician instructors and an administrative assistant for the distance learning program. [Link](#)



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